Strawberry Shortcake
The Berry Blossom Festival
WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts
Not for children under 3 years

"Planting Day is here!" Strawberry Shortcake exclaimed. She had been looking forward to spring—and it arrived early.

"How can we help, Strawberry?" asked Huckleberry Pie.

"Well, first we need to dig up the soil," explained Strawberry. "And we'll dig holes and put the plants in them. Then we'll fill the holes with dirt, and water the plants."

"It sounds like there's a good job for everyone," said Angel Cake.

The friends worked all day, and just before the sun set, the entire berry patch was planted.

"Thanks for all your help," Strawberry said.

As the days passed, Strawberry carefully watered the berry patch and pulled any weeds she found. *All our hard work is going to lead to a berry special berry crop this year!* she thought.

Late that night, Strawberry was awakened by Pupcake howling at the door. "Pupcake! Be quiet!" Strawberry said sleepily.

But Pupcake wouldn't stop howling. *"Ar-ar-arooooooo!"*

With a sigh, Strawberry got out of bed. Outside, something silver glittered in the moonlight. "What's that?" Strawberry asked.

Lacy streaks of frost were creeping over the berry patch!

"Oh, no!" Strawberry cried. "The baby berry plants could die from the frost! We've got to save them!"

Strawberry's cat, Custard, raced through Strawberryland to tell all of Strawberry's friends about the frost. Within minutes, everyone had bundled up in their warmest winter clothes and rushed off to the berry patch.

"Strawberry! What can we do to help?" yelled Blueberry.

"We have to keep the plants warm and dry!" Strawberry called back. "You can cover them with straw or tuck them under blankets."

All night long they worked. At last, the rosy sun peeked over the hills.

"Do you think we saved the plants?" Orange Blossom asked.

"I hope so," Strawberry said quietly. "We'll just have to wait and see."

A few days later, the cold snap ended. After the sun warmed the ground, Strawberry cleared away the straw and folded the blankets. *The plants* look *okay,* Strawberry thought—but she knew that she would worry about them until the first blossoms bloomed.

Strawberry's friends came over every day to help her care for the young plants by giving them water, plant food, and lots of love.

One summery day, all the kids in Strawberryland received shimmering pink invitations.

Late that afternoon, Blueberry, Orange, Angel, Ginger, and Huck set off for Strawberryland.

"Welcome to the Berry Blossom Festival!" Strawberry cried as she spotted her friends. "Thanks to you, all my berry plants made it through the frost. So I planned this festival so we could celebrate!"

"That's a great surprise, Strawberry!" exclaimed Huck.

"There's more," Strawberry replied, her brown eyes twinkling. "I've split the berry patch into six sections—one for each of us!"

"Strawberry! That's amazing!" Orange Blossom gasped.

"I can't think of a better way to thank my berry best friends," Strawberry said.

Oh, no! A late frost has come to Strawberryland, and the baby berry plants are in danger! If they get too cold, there won't be any summer strawberries. Will Strawberry Shortcake and her friends be able to save them?

INCLUDES sparkly nail polish, flowery ponytail holder, and sweet stickers!

By Megan E. Bryant
Illustrated by MJ Illustrations

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